

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing system having image data processing means of automatic adaptation of 3-D Mesh Model to image features, for Model-based image segmentation, comprising means of dynamic adaptation of [[the]] Model resolution to image features including means of locally setting higher resolution when reliable image features are found and means of setting lower resolution in [[the]] an opposite case, wherein reliability of an image feature is based on a feature distance and noise; and comprising viewing means for visualizing [[the]] images.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, having data processing means to define a feature confidence parameter for each image feature, and to locally adapt model resolution according to it.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, having data processing means to define a feature confidence parameter as a parameter that depends on the feature distance and on the estimation of quality of this feature including estimation of noise, and having data processing means to penalize the large distances and the noisy, although close features.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, having data processing means for decreasing the resolution of the Model in absence of confidence and gradually increasing the resolution of the Model with the rise of feature confidence.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, having data processing means for causing low local resolution to constrain local surface curvature, for preventing the model surface from self-intersections.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of one of claims 1 to 5, having means to make feature confidence available for model adaptation, comprising means to display the Model regions with different colors representing the confidence at the location of said regions for the user to supervise the deformation process of the Model and to locally assess its final quality.

7. (Previously Presented) Image processing system of claim 6, for the segmentation of a three dimensional object in a three dimensional image including data processing means for mapping a three dimensional mesh model onto said three dimensional object comprising means for: Acquiring a three-dimensional image of an object of interest to be segmented, generating a Mesh Model, formed of polygonal cells and deforming the Mesh Model in order to map said Mesh Model onto said object of interest.

8. (Previously Presented) The image processing system of claim 7, further comprising means for: Constructing a Color Coding Table wherein predetermined colors are associated to given confidence parameter values; Associating the confidence parameter values of a given cell of the Mesh Model to a color given by the color coding Table corresponding to said confidence parameter values.

9. (Original) The image processing system of claim 8, further comprising data processing means for: Performing a color coding operation by attributing to said given cell, the color determined from the Color Coding Table, corresponding to the confidence parameter values; and display means for: Displaying the image of the Mesh Model having cells colored according to the color-coding operation.

10. (Original) The image processing system of claim 9, wherein the color-coding operation is performed for all the cells or for a predetermined number of cells.

11. (Previously Presented) The image processing system of claim 10, further comprising means for: Taking a decision to stop the process of mapping the Mesh Model onto the object of reference in function of a predetermined confidence level.

12. (Previously Presented) A medical imaging system comprising a suitably programmed computer or a special purpose processor having circuit means, which are arranged to form an image processing system as claimed in claim 11 to process medical image data; and display means to display the images.

13. (Original) A medical examination imaging apparatus having: Means to acquire a three-dimensional image of an organ of a body, and a medical imaging system according to claim 12

14. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a program to control a system, said program comprising a set of instructions to be used in the system as claimed in claim 11.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising steps of: acquiring image data of a 3-D image with image features, and automatically adapting 3-D Mesh Model to image features, for Model-based image segmentation, ~~whereby~~ dynamically adapting [[the]] Model resolution to image features including locally setting higher resolution when reliable image features are found and setting lower resolution in [[the]] an opposite case, wherein reliability of an image feature is based on a feature distance and noise; and comprising steps of visualizing [[the]] images.